



Chapter 2

1996 Plan

Goals and Progress

Kansas Solid Waste Management Plan

INTRODUCTION

The 1996 state solid waste plan included 33 recommendations focused on waste management and its regulation in Kansas. Many of these recommendations gave direction to KDHE while others suggested actions by other parties with responsibilities in statewide solid waste activities. All of these recommendations have been addressed during the last four years and in most cases, considerable progress has been made towards achieving the goals and implementing the recommendations.

The purpose of this section is to review the 1996 solid waste plan recommendations and progress made towards their implementation.

SUBJECT AREAS

The recommendations presented in the 1996 plan were organized and presented in the following subject areas:

- Data Needs
- Local Solid Waste Planning
- State Solid Waste Planning
- Roles, Responsibilities & Authorities
- Disposal/Processing Facilities for Non-MSW
- Solid Waste Collection & Transportation
- Alternative Waste Management

Methods & Source Reduction

- Statutory and Regulatory Considerations
- Solid Waste Program Resources
- Technical Training & Assistance
- Public Education & Awareness

Each recommendation and the progress made in achieving the associated goals is briefly discussed below.

DATA NEEDS

- #1 *At the time the 1996 solid waste plan was prepared there was a need for better data on waste composition for use in solid waste planning by cities, counties, or regions. As a result, the plan recommended that periodic assessments of solid waste stream composition be performed. It was recommended that these assessments be performed both at the local level and over a larger scale such as in various regions of the state.*

Since 1996 waste stream composition assessments have been conducted in Riley, Saline, and Sedgwick counties. Similar assessments have been performed in the State of Missouri which may provide data useful to Kansas planners. KDHE is planning additional waste composition studies which will take place in late 2001

and 2002.

- #2 *It was recognized that a better understanding of the quantities and types of and management methods for non-municipal solid waste was needed.*

In response to this need KDHE changed its landfill reporting forms in 1998 to include reporting for construction/demolition waste, industrial wastes, tires, and special wastes in addition to municipal solid waste.

- #3 *Information was needed on the amount and types of waste currently diverted from landfill into recycling, composting, or other recovery programs.*

In response to this need KDHE instituted a new voluntary reporting program, following EPA standard methodology, for facilities which recover and/or process material diverted from the solid waste stream. This program was implemented in 1998.

- #4 *It was recognized that there was a need for information on the amount and types of solid waste which are being imported into Kansas.*

In 1998 KDHE changed its reporting forms to include estimates of quantities imported into Kansas landfills.

- #5 *The need for up-to-date information on existing and planned landfill capacities was recognized.*

The permitting process employed by KDHE for solid waste management facilities provides estimates of MSW permitted capacities. However, the potential expansion of facilities is not addressed through the

permitting process.

LOCAL SOLID WASTE PLANNING

- #6 *The 1996 State Solid Waste Plan recommended that all Kansas counties complete local solid waste management plans within one year of the completion of the state solid waste plan.*

All 105 Kansas counties have submitted their initial solid waste plans.

- #7 *It was recommended that each county or regional planning authority annually review their solid waste plan to determine the need for update. It also was recommended that a local public hearing be held at least every five years for the purpose of reviewing the plan and future goals for solid waste management. (Note: an annual review of each solid waste management plan and a public hearing on the plan and future goals at least every five years are now required by statute.)*

To monitor progress made by counties in meeting these reviews, KDHE has implemented a computerized tracking system. KDHE staff send reminder letters to county and regional planning officials to help them meet these requirements. KDHE is also seeking contract resources to provide assistance to regions in the process of restructuring.

- #8 *The 1996 Kansas Solid Waste Plan recommended that local waste reduction goals or programs be established.*

A number of Kansas communities have established local waste reduction goals. Some of these are reported to KDHE

through updates to county solid waste management plans and plan updates. KDHE does not maintain a database of these local waste reduction goals.

STATE SOLID WASTE PLANNING

- #9 *The 1996 State Solid Waste Plan recognized that as solid waste management practices evolve, the state solid waste plan will become out-of-date. As a result, it was recommended that the state plan be updated as appropriate and that a comprehensive solid waste plan review be conducted every four years.*

KDHE has reviewed various sections of the state solid waste management plan on an as needed basis since 1996. This document comprehensive update of the 1996 Kansas Solid Waste Management Plan.

ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES & AUTHORITIES

- #10 *To provide a clearer understanding of the roles, responsibilities, and authorities of cities, counties, regional authorities and planning committees in solid waste management, KDHE was to prepare and distribute informational documents for the various entities involved with solid waste management.*

KDHE has prepared a number of technical guidance documents on planning, technical training, and solid waste facility operations. These guidance documents have been distributed to targeted groups and been freely available to any interested persons.

- #11 *City, county, and regional authorities were to implement waste management practices in accordance with statutory and*

regulatory requirements including but not limited to planning efforts.

Much work has been performed by cities, counties, and regions in implementation of new and improved waste management systems to comply with new solid waste requirements in the past five years. The department's role is to provide compliance oversight with regard to solid waste statutes and regulations. This oversight is provided through inspections of the various solid waste management facilities and enforcement of the statutory and regulatory requirements.

- #12 *As part of the planning process, local officials should facilitate the development of waste management programs which integrate the capabilities of public and private sector resources including private business interests and various local non-profit organizations.*

The most effective solid waste management programs are those that are well integrated and in most cases, are based on effective partnerships formed with some combination of public and private resources. KDHE continues to strongly encourage partnering.

- #13 *The 1996 Kansas solid waste management plan recommended that KDHE seek assistance from technical and policy advisors in its administration of the state solid waste program.*

A state Solid Waste Advisory Group is in place and has been called on for assistance in regulation development and solid waste planning in general. Such assistance is extremely valuable to KDHE. A number of special task forces have been formed to provide technical assistance to KDHE

especially in the area of revising or developing solid waste management regulations.

DISPOSAL/PROCESSING FACILITIES FOR NON-MSW

#14 *KDHE should work with local officials, businesses, and waste management companies to facilitate establishment of an adequate system of facilities to manage all types of wastes. To achieve this, KDHE should provide technical assistance, process permit applications in a timely manner, and offer grant assistance when appropriate.*

KDHE is striving to make its facility permitting process as smooth as possible. Staff provide technical assistance as necessary. KDHE also has a grant program in place which, since 1996, has awarded over \$9 million in funding to projects located in 88 of the state's 105 counties. These projects have helped our partners establish, improve, or enhance a variety of solid waste, recycling, and composting facilities.

#15 *KDHE should continue to maintain an inventory of closed or abandoned disposal sites and direct implementation of corrective measures at facilities presenting the greatest risk.*

The Bureau of Environmental Remediation continues to perform these services. Funds are budgeted each year to assure that corrective measures are carried out at the sites posing the greatest risk.

SOLID WASTE COLLECTION & TRANSPORTATION

#16 *Local officials should evaluate their*

counties to ensure that rural collection services are available to all residents desiring solid waste management services. All counties and solid waste planning regions are required to address this need in their solid waste management plans.

ALTERNATIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT METHODS AND SOURCE REDUCTION

#17 *Local officials should utilize the decision-making models provided in the 1996 Kansas Solid Waste Plan or use other available planning tools to evaluate alternative waste management methods.*

A number of planning models and tools are available to local officials. While KDHE does not track use of such models, solid waste plan updates indicate that these tools are being used.

#18 *KDHE should develop technical documents or reports which provide detailed information on waste management options. This information should be distributed to interested parties through direct mailings or disseminated through technical seminars and conferences.*

Since 1996, KDHE has prepared a number of technical guidance documents on various topics related to solid waste management. These documents are periodically reviewed by staff and updated as necessary. Such documents are available by mail, and may be downloaded over the internet. They are also made available at meetings and training events.

- #19 *Local officials, private businesses, and volunteer groups are encouraged to expand existing recycling and composting opportunities to more thoroughly serve the entire state including such things as new or enhanced drop-off recycling centers, curbside recycling programs, central composting facilities, and general materials recovery facilities.*

Substantial progress has been made since 1996 in starting new facilities or enhancing existing programs. KDHE continues to stress the importance of partnering and this message is emphasized at the annual Recycling and Composting Works! and Household Hazardous Waste conferences.

- #20 *In accordance with state law and the availability of funds, KDHE should administer grant programs which provide financial assistance for implementing waste reduction projects or the stimulation of markets for recyclables.*

KDHE recently completed its ninth round of the competitive solid waste plan implementation grant program. Over \$9 million has been awarded projects in 88 of the state's 105 counties during the first six years of the grant program. During the same period over \$2.2 million has been awarded to fund household hazardous waste programs. Over 90 percent of the states population now has access to household hazardous waste facilities.

- #21 *KDHE should enhance source reduction and pollution prevention projects or programs to complement waste recovery efforts such as recycling or central*

composting.

KDHE's Office of Pollution Prevention is the department's primary pollution prevention focal point. The Division of Environment's annual environmental conference, which is held each fall, usually provides updates related to pollution prevention activities. The department also partners with the Kansas State University Pollution Prevention Institute. Pollution prevention support is provided to Kansas businesses and industry in the form of direct technical assistance and on-site assessments. Assistance provided relates to air, waste, water, remediation and non-point source program areas. KDHE also regularly reaches out to its numerous agency colleagues and outside partners to enhance such activities.

STATUTORY AND REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS

- #22 *KDHE should review the solid waste laws annually to determine if changes are needed.*

KDHE has been very active in this area. Statutory changes have been proposed almost every year since 1996.

- #23 *KDHE should regularly review the solid waste regulations to determine the need for revisions, deletions, or new regulations.*

KDHE has been very active in this area. A number of solid waste program regulation packages have been proposed and implemented since 1996. These include compost (livestock waste), compost (general), household hazardous waste, solid waste financial assurance, special waste, and waste tires. KDHE is currently working on regulation packages related to

construction/demolition waste, medical waste, and solid waste planning.

SOLID WASTE PROGRAM RESOURCES

#24 KDHE should project solid waste tipping fee revenues annually and each year a new three year projection should be estimated in order to effectively manage solid waste program resources.

Solid Waste Management Fund revenues are being closely monitored and projections of revenues are being made more than once per year.

#25 KDHE should perform comprehensive solid waste program reviews every two years to determine how state resources can best be used to meet the needs of the state.

The first solid waste program review resulted in a major report covering the time frame of 1996 through 1997. The second, completed in 1999, laid the groundwork for the 2000 state plan update process.

TECHNICAL TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE

#26 KDHE should develop a list of technical training recommendations and opportunities for the regulated community. Local participation in training should be optional rather than required as resources and technical responsibilities differ greatly.

KDHE has considered the training needs of the regulated community involved in solid waste management activities and has actively sponsored training events through seminars, workshops, and conferences.

#27 As monetary and staff resources allow, KDHE should develop and implement technical training workshops and seminars to address timely solid waste issues.

Technical training events have been developed and delivered to those involved with operations of landfills, transfer stations, household hazardous waste facilities, and recycling and composting activities.

#28 Facility owners and operators, and local government officials should make the commitments necessary to train themselves and their staffs in order to achieve the greatest degree of compliance and environmental protection.

KDHE makes an effort to notify county commissioners and owners of private facilities when training events are scheduled. Each year hundreds of facility operators attend solid waste conferences and training events.

#29 KDHE should develop and implement a technical training plan for all in-house staff working in the solid waste program.

Program supervisors work with their staff to assure that each individual receives the technical training needed to allow them to effectively carry out the duties of their positions. Supervisors also encourage their staff members to attend one external training event each year.

composting, and household hazardous waste programs.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

- #30 *KDHE should maintain and expand the Kansas Don't Spoil It! (KDSI) education and public awareness campaign.*

Much has been done to maintain and expand the KDSI campaign. A total of 18 thematic posters have been developed since the program's inception as have numerous newspaper public service announcements. Some of these have even found their way onto radio and television which have been used to enhance active media relations initiatives. A number of give-away items including bumper stickers, pencils made of recycled materials, mugs, etc., have been used to help the public become more aware of the program. Public education has also been stressed with a "Don't Spoil It" Activity Book available to educators, the distribution of *Trash Talk* to all Kansas fourth graders four times per year, as well as an annual environmental message calendar art contest for students.

- #31 *KDHE should develop and implement a process to evaluate the success of the Kansas Don't Spoil It! campaign.*

KDHE has conducted surveys at its conferences as well as a statewide survey conducted in 1998 to determine awareness of the KDSI campaign. The statewide survey revealed that nearly 15 percent of Kansans were aware of the program. In summary, the survey indicated that Kansans feel that environmental education, keeping Kansas clean, and buying recycled products should be the primary focus of the campaign. Survey respondents also felt that communities and counties need to do more to support recycling,

- #32 *Local officials and private businesses should develop solid waste educational programs or utilize applicable materials from the statewide Kansas Don't Spoil It! campaign.*

KDHE encourages the use of KDSI materials at all opportunities. Grant recipients and other partners are encouraged to use KDSI materials in conjunction with their programs.

- #33 *KDHE should work with other state agencies or organizations to expand the implementation of the solid waste public education and awareness program.*

KDHE has had limited discussions with officials from the Kansas Department of Transportation as well as the Kansas Department of Administration about the statewide application of the KDSI campaign. Bumper stickers have been made available for application on state vehicles and the state's official position is to reduce waste and encourage recycling through the purchase and use of some recycled products.

Outside of state government, KDHE has partnered with the Kansas Business and Industry Recycling Program (KS BIRP), the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC), various private sector sponsors, and Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education to advance the KDSI program.